



MINNESOTA - CROATIA

1996-2013



President: Ivo Josipović
 Prime Min.: Zoran Milanović
 MoD: Ante Kotromanić
 Amb. to US: Josko Paro
 US Amb: Kenneth Merten
 TAG: MG Richard C. Nash

NATO member: Yes (2009)

EU member: No (Awaiting)

ISAF Pax: 242 (1/1/13)

2012 SPP Engagements: 9

Population: 4.5M (2012 est.)
 Area: slightly smaller than West Virginia
 Military Expend.: 1.7% GDP (2010 est.)



Photo by U.S. Air Force

Overview

The partnership began in July 1996 and has progressed from small unit exchanges to deployments as Operational Mentoring Liaison Teams (OMLT) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). The partnership continues to support overseas contingency operations; assist in the development of disaster preparedness and consequence management, and support the EUCOM Commander's Security Cooperation Objectives (military transformation, interoperability, civil-military operations, and regional military-to-military and civil security events).

Partnership History

- The partnership began in July 1996.
- Croatia's accession into NATO in 2009 was based on their participation in NATO's Partnership for Peace exercises starting in 2000.
- National elections were held December 4, 2011. There was a major transition of power from Croatian Democratic Union HDZ Party (Hrvatska demokratska zajednica) to Kukuriku (Social Democratic Party).
- Croatia applied for EU membership in 2003, and is set for accession July 1, 2013

Partnership Focus

The events within the scope of the MNNG capabilities in the SPP will continue with emphasis on Crisis Response, building a Reserve Force, Support to Civilian Authorities with the intent to execute a responsible transition from Mil/Mil to Civ/Civ events. The MNNG is making a deliberate effort to partner Croatian Government leaders with Minnesota State Government entities for CIV/CIV engagements with the intent to facilitate planning fusion for CIV/CIV discussions on future trade relations with MN and Croatian international and domestic business leaders.

2013 Planned Events:

- Defense Support to Civilian Authorities
- Cyber Defense
- Rotary Wing Aviation
- Chaplaincy
- UAV Tactics

FY14 Proposed Events:

- Defense Support to Civilian Authorities
- Cyber Defense
- Rotary Wing Aviation



Photo by Capt. Elizabeth Culbertson



"In addition to our relationship being very relevant in meeting the objectives of the EUCOM Commander regarding his theater cooperation strategy, it has given many of our Soldiers and Airmen an opportunity to experience other cultures and methods." - MG Larry Shellito, former Adjutant General, Minnesota National Guard

